

Dr. Ezekiel Lovejoy's House  
100 Front Street  
Owego  
Tioga County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5428

HABS

NY

54-OWEG

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5428

DR. EZEKIEL LOVEJOY'S HOUSE

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Location: 100 Front Street, Owego, Tioga County, New York

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Robert McQuarrie

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: Believed to be the largest Greek revival house in Owego, the central block has a two-story pedimented tetrastyle portico.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: According to the account of Leroy Kingman in Early Owego (p. 151), the house was built by Dr. Lovejoy, the husband of Lydia Abby Pumpelly whose family owned considerable property on Front Street in Owego (see HABS NY-5460). Occupied by Dr. Ezekiel Lovejoy, first homeopathic physician in Owego, a graduate of Union College, who "changed his practice in Owego in 1847-48." He died in 1871. (Everts & Ensign, History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins & Schuyler Counties, New York. p. 102, Philadelphia. 1879). 1853 Map of Village indicates owner "E. Lovejoy". After Dr. Lovejoy's death in 1871, his widow occupied the house until her death in 1881. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. James P. Lovejoy, and granddaughter, resided in the house until they moved in the house next door. Recent owners were Laning Taylor and Miss Phyllis V. Mead.
2. Date of erection: 1836-1837 (See Early Owego, p. 151).
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Not presently known.
5. Original plan and construction:  
The residence originally had no windows on the west side. The doctor's office is said to have been in the smaller house now standing on the next property to the west. According to village gossip, for which there is no verification at present, the reason for the existence of no

windows on the west side of the house was to prevent the doctor's wife and daughters from observing the patients who came and went from his office door.

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The Owego Village Map of 1853 shows a diagram of a landscaped garden consisting of one parterre on the center of the back lawn, midway between house and river. It is enclosed by a square (evidently hedge) outline, circular center bed with a central ornament and four corner beds. Walks separate the beds. Garden estimated to be 40' x 40'.

6. Alterations and additions: A carriage porch on the east side is evidently an addition.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Village Map of Owego, 1853. (An original is in the law office of Benjamin F. Traçy, Owego, New York. Copies of this are filed in the office of the Broome County Planning Board, Court House, Binghamton.)

2. Bibliography:

Buchman, Joan. "Owego Architecture: The Greek Revival in a Pioneer Town." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. vol. xxv, no. 3 (Oct., 1966), pp. 215-221.

Ensign and Everts. History of Tioga, Chemung, Tomkins and Schuyler Counties, New York. Philadelphia, 1879.

Kingman, Leroy. Early Owego. Owego, 1907. (Copy at Tioga County Historical Society, and Owego Public Library.)

"The Handsome Homes of Owego--Old and New." Owego Gazette, May 25, 1916.

Prepared by Clement G. Bowers  
June, 1963

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation of structures in the Southern Tier of New York State, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Broome County Historical Society and the Valley Development Foundation, Inc.

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The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, 54-OWE 6  
Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The historical 1-  
material was prepared in June, 1963, by Clement G. Bowers of the  
Broome County Historical Society. Photographs were taken by Jack E.  
Boucher in March, 1963. The project was edited for deposit in the  
Library of Congress by Constance Werner Ramirez, July, 1974.

Addendum to  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to  
DR. EZEKIEL LOVEJOY HOUSE

HABS No. NY-5428

Location: 100 Front Street, Owego, Tioga County, New York

Present Owners and Occupants: Hasan K. and Ayse Tezel

Present Use: residence

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house was built by Dr. Ezekiel Lovejoy, who started practicing in Owego in October 1828 (Owego Gazette). Nunan's map of the village (1853) shows the location of the property on the south side of Front Street and extending to the river; the doctor's office stood near the west corner of the lot next to the street.

When Dr. Lovejoy died in 1871, the property went to his widow, Lydia Abby Pumpelly Lovejoy, who lived in the house until her death in 1880. The Lovejoy's son, James Pumpelly Lovejoy, a prominent lawyer, died in 1863, and his widow, Lydia Powell Lovejoy, sold their house on Academy Street in 1866. It is likely that she and her three remaining children moved to 100 Front Street at this time. In 1880, after her mother-in-law's death, Lydia Powell Lovejoy became the owner. She and her daughters lived in the house for part of the next two decades. Mrs. Lovejoy remarried (to Silas Fordham of Waverly) and they lived away from Owego for a time. The house was rented in 1887, in 1904-1905, and at other times. Mr. Fordham died in 1899, after which Mrs. Fordham and her older daughter, Lydia Mary Lovejoy, lived together in the old house.

About 1910 Mrs. Fordham had Dr. Lovejoy's office building moved back 60-70 feet from the street and converted into a small house, which she and Lydia occupied. Mrs. Fordham died in 1915 and her daughter Lydia inherited the property. In April 1920 Lydia Lovejoy divided the property into two parts and sold the eastern three-fifths (109.6 feet wide at the street) to Mrs. Rosalie Kennon Smith. Miss Lovejoy continued to live in the small house on the western part of the lot, which came to be numbered 98 Front Street.

Other owners to date have been:

- 1928: Rosalie Kennon Smith sold to Edward and Bertha Giles;
- 1937: Bertha Giles sold to J. Laning and Margaret K. Taylor;
- 1959: Margaret K. Taylor sold to Phyllis V. Mead;
- 1971: Mead sold to Robert P. and Faith D. McQuarrie;
- 1984: The McQuarries sold to Hasan K. and Ayse Tezel.

2. Alterations and additions: The house originally had east and west blocks of the same size, but the east side has been extended to the rear, forming a wing about 18 feet long. The siding used on this wing is narrower than that on the rest of the house, and a distinct break in the entablature and stone foundation is evident along the line of the original rear pilaster. Pilasters are lacking at the two back corners of this wing. The date of this addition is uncertain but it must have been prior to 1910.

A box-like addition was made on the second floor in the corner where the east wing extends back from the main block of the house. This seems to have been a closet. It clearly postdates the original house and also the extension of the east wing, the entablature of which it overlaps.

The carriage porch on the east side was added during the early 1920s by Mrs. R.K. Smith.

On the second floor a small window was opened on the west wall and a bathroom was partitioned off the southwest corner of the large hall-sitting room during the twentieth century.

The McQuarries carried out considerable renovation during the early 1970s. They completely remodelled the kitchen and restored the fine parquetry on the first floor.

The rear fireplace in the west drawing room has been walled in to conserve heat.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: This large rectangular two-story house consists of a central block with a low-pitched gable roof, flanked on both sides by symmetrical lateral blocks with flat roofs that extend to the rear beyond the central portion.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Foundation: sandstone from local sources
2. Walls: wood
3. Porch: The four columns of the front portico are plain and square with simply molded capitals and bases.
4. Windows: Windows are numerous on all walls except on the west where none existed originally, though there is one on the second floor now. The reason provided in previous documentation for the lack of west windows is probably wrong as the Lovejoys had no daughters who lived beyond infancy. It is possible that no windows were built here because the view would have been simply of a carriage barn. Also, the west wall is divided by pilasters into four panels and has chimneys centered on two of the pilasters. Had windows been placed in the middle of any of the four panels, they would have looked out of place.

- C. Description of Interior: The second floor has a large hall-sitting room occupying the whole of the central block. A spiral staircase opens into this spacious room near its northeast corner. The west and east blocks are divided into two large bedrooms each, separated by closets. The back of the east wing contains a bath, a servant's room, and stairs to the kitchen.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Early Views: Nunan, Philip, Map of Owego and its Vicinity, 1853.

B. Bibliography:

Kingman, Leroy W., Our County and its People; a Memorial History of Tioga County, New York, W.A. Fergusson and Company, Elmira, NY, p. 170, 1897.

- C. Supplemental Material: Information assembled by John M. Parker, III, from family records, county clerk's and surrogate's offices, Owego newspapers, and cemetery records, supplemented by his recollections and those of other family members, submitted to the Historic American Buildings Survey, August 1987.

Prepared and transmitted by: Holly K. Chamberlain  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
October 2, 1987